

# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Assessor's Number 0055000071 USGS Quad Boston N. Area(s) Form Number 678

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 137 Grant St.

Historic Name Stillman Spaulding store

Uses: Present Residential

Original Commercial/Residential

Date of Construction 1835–1836

Source Lane; Lexington Valuation lists

Style/Form Federal

Architect/Builder David Tuttle Sr.

Exterior Material:

Foundation Fieldstone

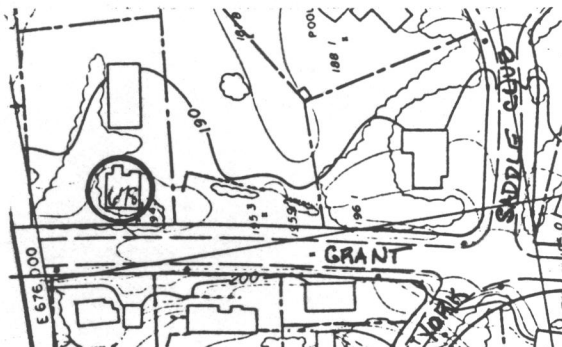
Wall/Trim Aluminum Siding

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

Rear additions (dates unknown)



Condition Fair

Moved ☐ no ☒ yes Date 1903

Acreage 0.7 A.

Setting On a busy street across from 20th-century houses

Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) March 1998

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

137 Grant St. is one of a number of Federal houses in Lexington but, having been moved, sided, and altered, is less intact than many of the others. (Other examples of moved and sided Federals are at 14 Sherman St. [MHC #675] and 16 Manley Ct. [MHC #666]). The house is rectangular with a rear ell, two stories, five-by-one bays, and side-gabled with a rear chimney. It is set on a fieldstone foundation, clad with aluminum siding, and roofed with asphalt shingles. On the south end of the building the rear roof line has been extended to the eaves of the flat-roofed one-story rear addition on a cement block foundation, creating an integral leanto effect. The main entry is in the center of the facade; windows are 6/6 double hung sash. Behind the house is a large, side-gabled, 1½-story three-vehicle garage with the second story clad with aluminum siding and first story with stucco. Two aluminum-clad gabled dormers in the second floor suggest that there is a residence over the garage.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

This house was originally on Massachusetts Ave. the second house east of Clarke St. where Cary Library is now located. The house was built on land owned by Stillman Spaulding (1788–1860), a physician, next to his 18th-century house on the corner of what are now Massachusetts Ave. and Clarke St. According to an antiquarian account, this house was started in August 1835 but not completed “till sometime later,” an account verified by Lexington assessors’ records, which do not assess Spaulding for his “new store” until 1837. The house was built by David Tuttle (1782–1845), the father of the prominent 19th-century Lexington builder David A. Tuttle, and was probably called a store because it was used as both a retail facility and a residence. The antiquarian account says that the house was first rented to a Mr. Haskell, a bookbinder; then to a Mr. Sealey, a tailor from Woburn; then to three other tailors; and later to a Mr. Gossum, who ran an oyster saloon. After Spaulding’s death the house was owned by his widow Lucy (1799–1887) and then by her heirs. A late 19th-century photograph shows this house facing Massachusetts Ave. next to the 18th-century house on the corner. In 1903 when Cary Library was built on this site, the 18th-century house was torn down and this one moved to its present location.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

- Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913. 2: 656
- Kelley, Beverly Allison. *Lexington: A Century of Photographs*. Lexington, Mass: Lexington Historical Society, 1980. 74.
- Lane, Ralph E. “Dr. Stillman Spaulding.” *Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society* 3 (1905): 19–24.
- Lexington Valuation Lists. 1831–1847.
- Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, MA. 243: 428; 176: 342; 170: 234; 162: 220; 155: 479; 137: 484; 128: 333; 1624: 294.
- Worthen, Edwin B. Notes on buildings burned, torn down, and moved. “Houses” file, Worthen Collection. Cary Library, Lexington, Mass. #7, #85

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*